B1 cont:

2. (Amended.) The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human suffering from preeclampsia unaccompanied by preterm labor.

3. (Amended.) The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human [who has exhibited] suffering from preeclampsia and is also exhibiting symptoms of [or is a candidate for] preterm labor.

B2

14. (Amended.) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an admixture of

(a) a progestin and

(b) a nitric oxide synthesis substrate, a nitric oxide donor or both,

and, optionally, [also]

(c) at least one of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, a PGI_2-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA_2) inhibitor, a PGI_2-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA_2) inhibitor, a compound possessing [TXA_2-agonistic] PGI_2-agonistic and TXA_2-inhibiting properties, a compound possessing TXA_2-antagonistic and PGI_2-memetic activities, and a TXA_2 antagonist, in amounts effective to ameliorate the symptoms of preeclampsia[, toxemia or] accompanied or unaccompanied by preterm labor in a pregnant female mammal[when administered thereto in an amount effective provide an amount of the progestin bioequivalent to 50-300 mg. of injected progesterone and an amount of the nitric oxide synthase substrate, nitric oxide donor or both effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normally 2 to 3 mmolar circulating levels or raise the nitric oxide donor levels to about 1 to 1000 nmolar].

both to the blood

B3

3 2

18. (Amended.) The composition according to claim 17, wherein the nitric oxide donor is sodium nitroprusside, nitroglycerin, [glyceryltrinitrie] glyceryltrinitrate, SIN-1, [isosorbidmononitrite] isosorbidmononitrate or [isosorbiddinitrite] isosorbiddinitrate.

Please add the following new claims:

B4

-- **22.** A method of claim 4, wherein the amount of nitric oxide synthase substrate is effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normal circulating level of L-arginine.

23. A method of claim 6, wherein the amount of nitric oxide donor is effective to provide a blood level of such donor of about 1-1000 nmole.

24. A method of claim 1, further comprising administering an effective amount of (c).

25. A method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is human, and the amount of progestin is bioequivalent in said treatment to 50-300 mg of injected progesterone.

26. A method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is human, and the amount of nitric oxide synthase substrate is effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normal circulating level of 2 to 3 nmolar.

27. A method of claim 6, wherein the female mammal is human, and the amount of nitric oxide donor is effective to provide a blood level of nitric oxide donor of about 1-1000 nmole.

28. A composition of claim 14, further comprising administering effective amounts of one or more agents selected from the group consisting of a cyclooxygenase inhibitor, a PGI_2-mimetic, a thromboxane (TXA_2) inhibitor, a compound possessing PGI_2-agonistic and TXA_2-inhibiting properties, a compound possessing TXA_2-antagonistic and PGI_2-mimetic activities, and a TXA_2-antagonist.

29. A composition of claim 14, wherein the amount of progestin is bioequivalent to 50-300 mg of injected progesterone.

30. A composition of claim 15, wherein the amount of nitric oxide synthase substrate is effective to raise the blood level of circulating L-arginine to at least about 1 mmole above the normal circulating level of 2 to 3 nmolar.

31. A composition of claim 17, wherein the amount of nitric oxide donor is effective to provide a blood level of nitric oxide donor of about 1-1000 nmole.

32. The method of claim 1, wherein the female mammal is a human suffering from dysmenorrhea, functional uterine bleeding or hemorrhaging.

33. A method of inhibiting the nitric oxide dependent contractility of the uterus of a non-pregnant female mammal or a pregnant female mammal suffering from preeclampsia accompanied or unaccompanied by preterm labor, comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 14.--